



30 west superior street / duluth, minnesota 55802-2093 / fax: 218-723-3955 / [www.allete.com](http://www.allete.com)

David R. Moeller  
Senior Attorney  
218-723-3963  
[dmoeller@allete.com](mailto:dmoeller@allete.com)

June 26, 2014

VIA EMAIL: [NDPSC@ND.GOV](mailto:NDPSC@ND.GOV)

Mr. Darrell Nitschke  
Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: Bison 4 Wind Project  
Oliver/Morton Counties  
Siting Application  
Case No. PU-13-127

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Please find attached Minnesota Power's Bison 4 Underground Incident Report, in the above-referenced cases.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

David R. Moeller

DRM:sr  
Attachments

c: Houston Engineering (email-[ebaskerville@houstoneng.com](mailto:ebaskerville@houstoneng.com))  
Mike Pontius, Minnesota Power



## **Bison 4 Underground Incident Report**

### **Case No. PU-13-127**

On June 16, 2014 crews installing underground collector cables cut through a West River Telephone fiber optic cable near the intersection of 51<sup>st</sup> Ave and 30<sup>th</sup> St. The crew had a valid North Dakota One Call ticket (14077596) and they had "pot holed" the cable prior to starting the work, the owner was notified immediately.

The following information is from the internal incident report:

Ground man hand dug and exposed fiber optic line the the operator. Operator started excavating around the line. Some of the spoil pile fell back into the trench covering the fiber line. Instead of the ground man hand digging the dirt off to expose the line again, the operator tried mechanically taking the dirt off the line with the bucket, subsequently snagging and breaking the fiber optic line in half.

The operator was given 3 days off without pay.